

## CORONA SMITH BUYS VIOLETS

I love violets. Late one afternoon I was at Woolworth's, and they were having an end-table sale on potted plants. There was one pot of a new variety of violets: blue and white like I like, but developed in Japan to be hardy enough for the tropics. That one was the sample. I begged the salesgirl to sell it to me. The store closed at five, and it was one minute to. She gave it to me without ringing it up.

On Sunday, I went to a nursery looking for new ideas for ground-cover. Turning a corner towards the back, I saw hundreds of violets with a sign saying "New From Japan!" I bought two flats and planted them in my bed. For a while I had all the blue-centered violets I could ever dream of. Then things got busy and I forgot to water them.

## CORONA SMITH'S ELEVATOR ADVENTURE

After a loud snap! and dropping two floors, the elevator stopped, a little askew and shaky, at the seventh floor. I press and press the button and yell. Then the door opens. Standing there is a doctor who works in this building, though I am sure she has never noticed me. Apparently she's come in for some papers. She looks wonderful in her Saturday clothes, doesn't notice the slant of the floor. I decide whatever it takes

I must make friends with this woman. So I greet her casually, pretending confidence. The elevator works smoothly, and we chat into the lobby. She invites me out for quenelles. I don't know what those are but say sure, I have the time.

At the restaurant baroque music is playing. I claim I play flute, though I quit in seventh grade. The conversation turns to Woody Allen movies and something I say strikes her as clever. During the meal I admit I was anxious on the elevator, in fact would have bolted off and down seven flights if she hadn't got on. She says what she likes about me is



I'm so honest. I have to confess then  
that I'm no flutist. She laughs  
and says I'm only proving her point.

— Sue Cowing

Honolulu HI

NORMA JEANE

Richard and I drove up to  
Westwood one night  
to visit you but it was  
late — almost midnight —  
and the gates were locked.  
We considered scaling the fence  
but quickly discarded that idea  
realizing I was too stoned to  
accomplish such a feat  
without breaking a limb.  
We made vague plans to drive up  
again when the park was open  
but never did.

Richard and I don't see each other  
anymore but one of these days  
I'll drive up alone and tell you  
what I would have that night,  
that if I ever have a daughter  
she'll be called Norma Jeane  
(with an "e" on the end,  
the way you spelled it)  
and she will be very much loved  
and very much wanted  
as all children deserve to be.

COME LIVE WITH ME AND BE MY LOVE

Since you have a job we'll be able to  
rent a nice two-bedroom apartment  
within walking distance of McDonald's.  
We'll have two phones and two answering machines  
but we can share the cats and  
cleaning supplies.

We'll spend Thanksgiving with your family  
and Christmas with mine and you'll